Alberta Labour Force Profiles

Aboriginal People
2011

Alberta

Highlights

1. Population of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

- More than 60.0% of the working age population (WAP) of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve was between the ages of 25 and 64 years.
- Edmonton economic region had the highest percentage of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve, at 37.0%, followed by Calgary region at 21.3%, and the Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River economic region at 16.3%.

2. Participation Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

- The 67.7% participation rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve was lower than the 73.3% for Albertans.
- The Aboriginal females' participation rate of 59.8% was lower than the 76.2% rate for male counterparts.

3. Unemployment Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

- The 11.1% unemployment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve was higher than the 5.5% for Albertans by 5.6 percentage points.
- The unemployment rate for North American Indians in Alberta, at 12.2%, was 2.0 percentage points higher than the rate for Métis people, at 10.2%.

4. Employment Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

- The 60.2% employment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve was lower than the 69.7% for Albertans by 9.5 percentage points.
- Among off-reserve Aboriginal groups, Métis people had the highest employment rate of 62.6%.

5. Employment by Industry of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

- The Services-Producing Sector employed 68.0% of Aboriginal people living off-reserve.
- More than half of Alberta's employed Aboriginal people living off-reserve worked in the following four industries: Retail and Wholesale Trade, 17.4%; Construction, 12.2%; Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas, 10.9%; and Health Care and Social Assistance, 9.8%.

Highlights

6. Employment by Occupation of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

- Just over two-thirds of Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Alberta were employed in three occupations in 2011: Sales and service, 26.5%; Trades, transport and equipment operators and related, 24.3%; and Business, finance and administrative, 15.4%.
- The proportion of Aboriginal people employed in the Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations was 5.7 percentage points higher than the Alberta average of 18.6%.

7. Educational Attainment of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

- In 2011, 42.7% of Alberta's Aboriginal labour force living off-reserve had completed a post-secondary certificate or diploma, or university degree.
- The proportion of Aboriginal labour force living off-reserve in Alberta with less than a high school diploma was 22.3%.

1. Population of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

In 2011, the number of working age population of Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Alberta was 124,000, which were 3,100 more than in 2010. The proportion of Aboriginal people between the ages of 15 and 24 years was 28.1%; while 66.0% were between 25 and 64 years of age (Figure 1). The corresponding proportions for all Albertans were 16.9% and 70.3%, respectively.

Figure 1

Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve) by Age Group, Alberta, 2011

	All Aboriginal People		North American Indians		Métis	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
Working Age Population (15+ years)	124,000	100.0%	48,800	100.0%	72,700	100.0%
15 - 24 years	34,800	28.1%	14,600	29.9%	19,300	26.5%
25 - 64 years	81,800	66.0%	32,200	66.0%	48,100	66.2%
55 + years	18,200	14.7%	5,900	12.1%	11,800	16.2%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2011

Of the 15 years and older Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Alberta, 59.3% lived in the Edmonton and Calgary economic regions in 2011 (Figure 2). An economic region is defined by Statistics Canada as a geographical unit composed of several census divisions within a province.

Outside the Edmonton and Calgary economic regions, the Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River economic region had 16.3% of the off-reserve Aboriginal population. In total, 75.6% of the Aboriginal People off-reserve population lived in these three regions.

Figure 2

Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve) Population by Economic Region, Alberta, 2011

	All Aboriginal People		North American Indians		Métis	
Economic Regions	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total
Total	124,000	100.0%	48,800	100.0%	72,700	100.0%
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat	8,400	6.8%	4,000	8.2%	4,400	6.1%
Camrose - Drumheller	4,100	3.3%	**	**	2,800	3.9%
Calgary	30,900	24.9%	13,900	28.5%	15,500	21.3%
Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House	2,900	2.3%	700	1.4%	2,100	2.9%
Red Deer	5,800	4.7%	2,800	5.7%	3,000	4.1%
Edmonton	42,600	34.4%	15,300	31.4%	26,900	37.0%
Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River	20,200	16.3%	7,200	14.8%	12,900	17.7%
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake	9,100	7.3%	3,800	7.8%	5,100	7.0%

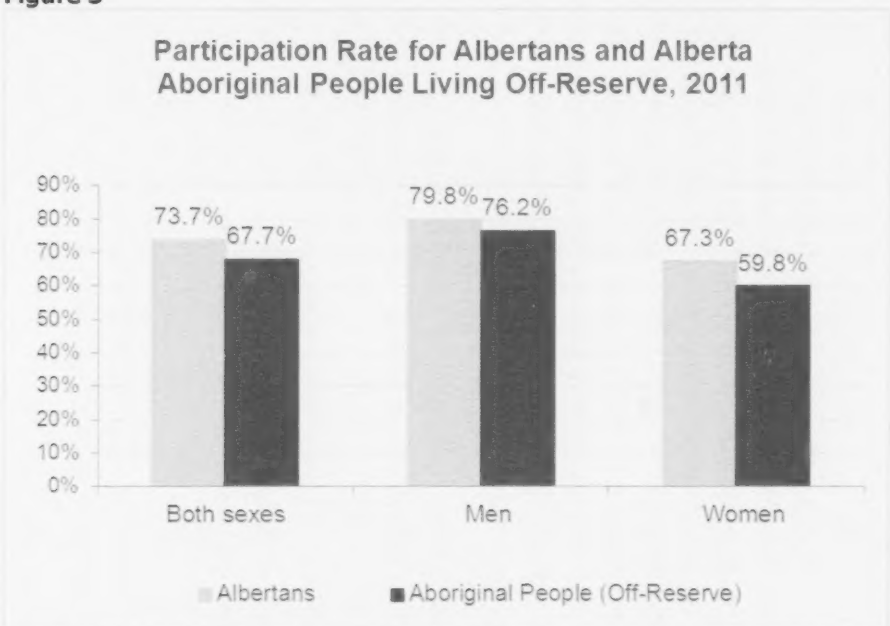
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2011
Aboriginal population (15+ Years)
** Insufficient data

2. Participation Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

In 2011, the participation rate for both Aboriginal men and women living off-reserve was lower than Albertans' rates, with an overall difference of 6.0 percentage points. In 2011, 67.7% of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve was part of the Aboriginal people's labour force compared to 73.7% of Albertans who were part of the Alberta's labour force. (Figure 3)

The difference in male participation rates between Albertans and Aboriginal Albertans was smaller than for females. Male participation rates for Albertans and for Aboriginal people living off-reserve were 79.8% and 76.2% respectively, a 3.6 percentage point difference. The participation rates for Alberta's females and Aboriginal females living off-reserve were 67.3% and 59.8% respectively, a 7.5 percentage point difference.

Figure 3



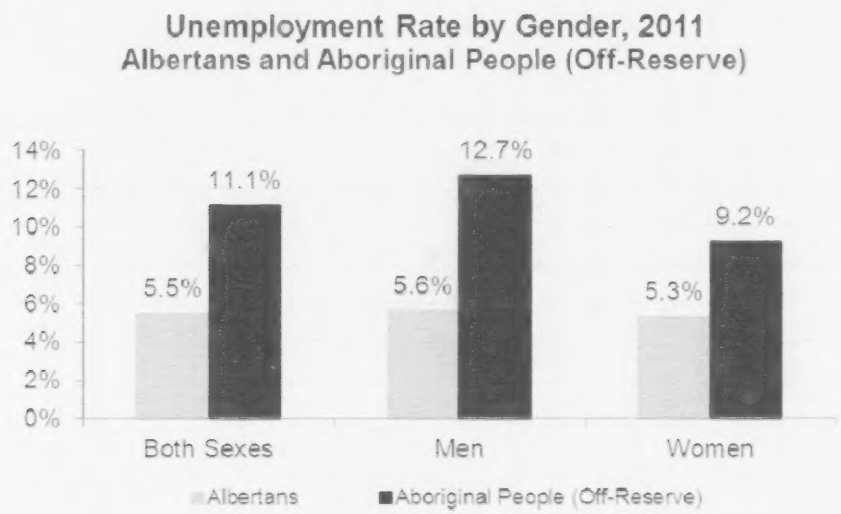
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2011

3. Unemployment Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

In 2011, the unemployment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve was 11.1%. (Figure 4) This was 5.6 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate for Albertans.

Male Aboriginal Albertans had an unemployment rate of 12.7% while male Albertans' unemployment rate was 5.6%, a difference of 7.1 percentage points. Female Aboriginal Albertans had an unemployment rate of 9.2% compared to female Albertans whose unemployment rate was 5.3%, a difference of 3.9 percentage points.

Figure 4



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2011

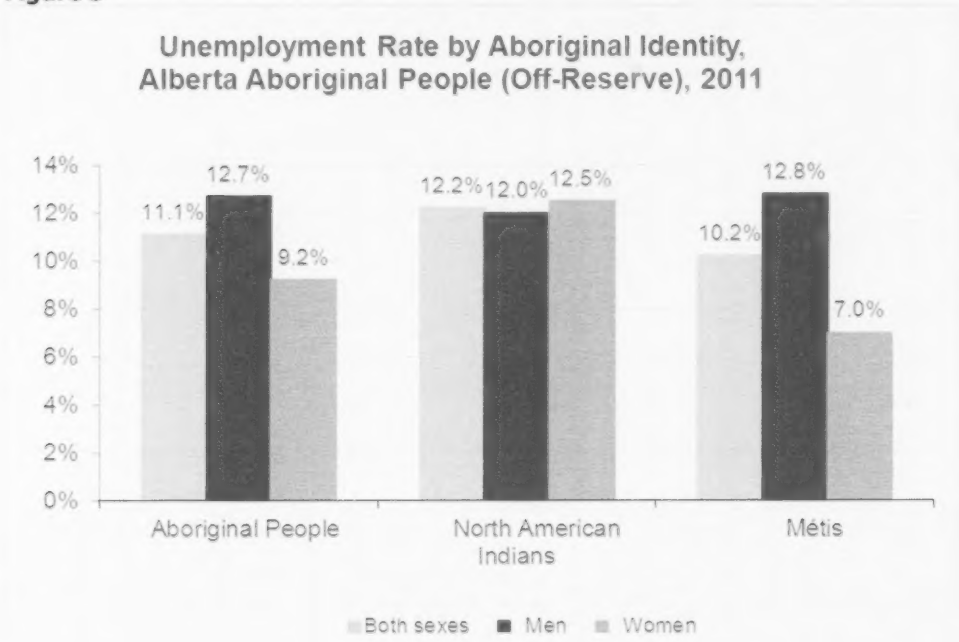
3. Unemployment Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

Of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve, North American Indians experienced the highest unemployment rates in 2011 at 12.2%, which was 2.0 percentage points higher than for Métis people. (Figure 5)

At 12.7%, the unemployment rate for Aboriginal males was 1.6 percentage points above the Aboriginal people's average of 11.1%. Aboriginal females have a below average unemployment rate of 9.2%. In particular, the unemployment rate for Métis females was 7.0%, which was 2.2 percentage points lower than the average unemployment rate for Aboriginal females of 9.2%.

Across genders, the unemployment rate for male North American Indians was lower than that for female North American Indians, while male Métis have a higher unemployment rate than female Métis.

Figure 5



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2011

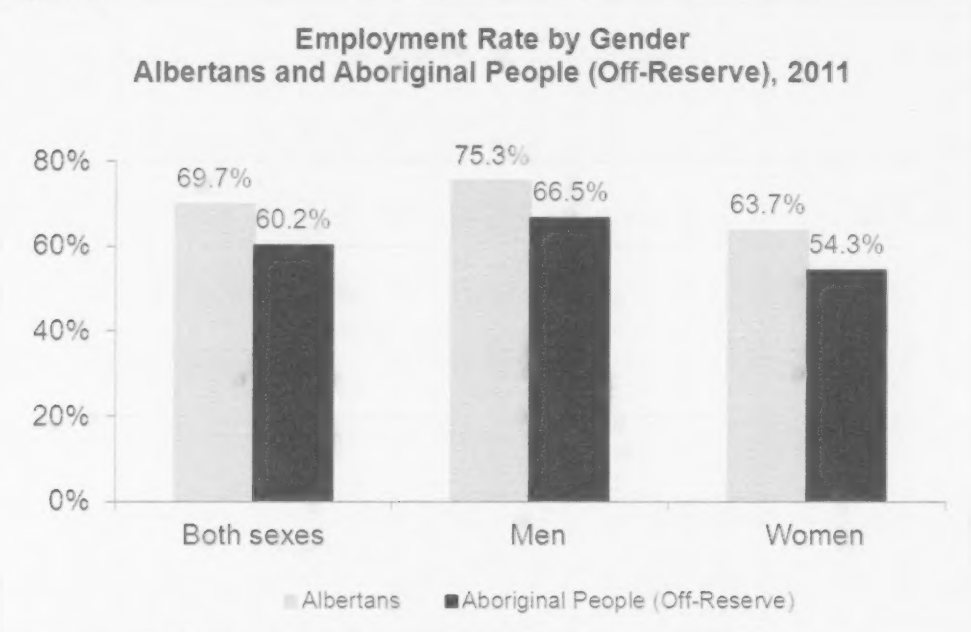
4. Employment Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

The employment rate for Albertans 15 years and over, at 69.7% in 2011, was 9.5 percentage points higher than the employment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve 15 years and over, at 60.2%. (Figure 6)

The Aboriginal males' employment rate of 66.5% was above the Aboriginal people's average of 60.2% by 6.3 percentage points. Aboriginal females' employment rate, at 54.3%, was 5.9 percentage points below the Aboriginal people's average.

The employment rate for Alberta males was 8.8 percentage points higher than the employment rate for Aboriginal males. Aboriginal female employment rate was 9.4 percentage points below the Alberta's female average.

Figure 6



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2011

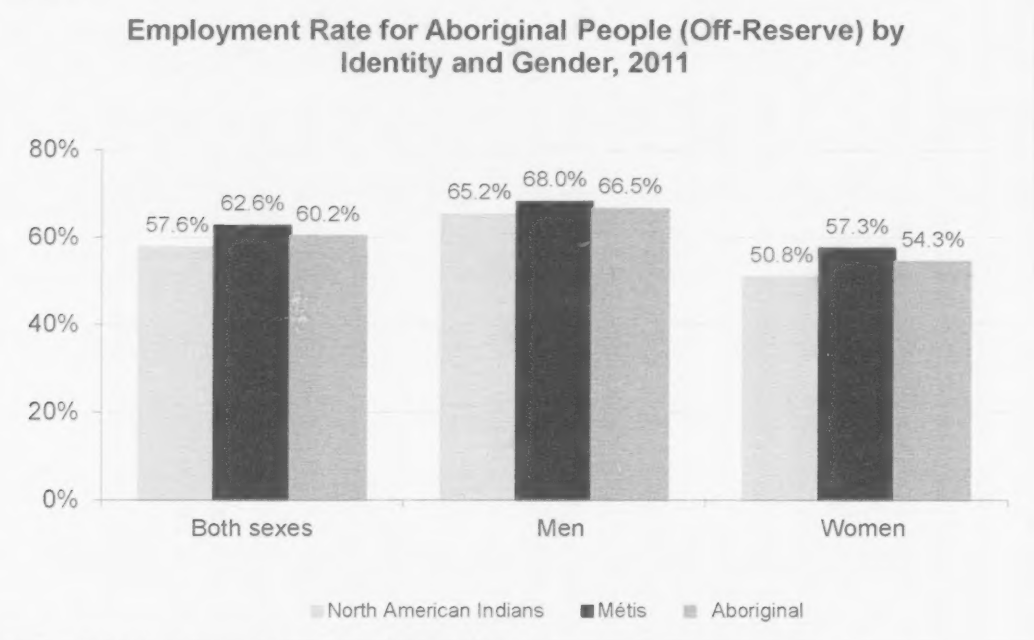
4. Employment Rate for Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

The average employment rate for Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve was 60.2% in 2011. Métis people had a higher than average employment rate, at 62.6%, compared to North American Indians, at 57.6%. (Figure 7)

Aboriginal males had a higher employment rate on average, at 66.5% than the average for their female counterparts, at 54.3% in 2011.

Across both gender and Aboriginal identity groups, Métis males had the highest employment rate at 68.0% in 2011.

Figure 7



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2011

5. Employment by Industry of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

In 2011, 68.0% of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve were employed in the Services-Producing Sector, and 32.2% were employed in the Goods-Producing Sector. (Figure 8)

Over half of Alberta's employed Aboriginal people living off-reserve worked in four industries: Trade, 17.4%; Construction, 12.2%; Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas, 10.9%; and Health Care and Social Assistance, 9.8%.

Figure 8

Employment of Alberta Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve) by Industry, 2011

	Employment	% of Total
Total employed	**74,600**	**100.0%**
Goods-Producing Sector	**24,000**	**32.2%**
Agriculture	**	**
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	8,100	10.9%
Utilities	**	**
Construction	9,100	12.2%
Manufacturing	5,100	6.8%
Services-Producing Sector	**50,700**	**68.0%**
Educational Services	4,000	5.4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	7,300	9.8%
Public Administration	3,600	4.8%
Trade	13,000	17.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	2,800	3.8%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	2,400	3.2%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	2,300	3.1%
Management of Companies and Administrative and Other Support Services	3,300	4.4%
Information, Culture and Recreation	3,000	4.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	5,100	6.8%
Other Services	3,800	5.1%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2011
** Insufficient data

6. Employment by Occupation of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

In 2011, just over two-thirds of Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Alberta were employed in three occupations: Sales and service, 26.5%; Trades, transport and equipment operators and related, 24.3%; and Business, finance and administrative, 15.4%. For all Albertans, 59.9% were employed in these three occupations. (Figure 9)

Figure 9

Employment of Albertans and Aboriginal Albertans by Occupation, 2011

	Albertans		Aboriginal Albertans	
	Employment	% of Total	Employment	% of Total
All occupations	2,093,300	100.0%	74,600	100.0%
Management	156,400	7.5%	4,100	5.5%
Business, finance and administrative	376,000	18.0%	11,500	15.4%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	172,600	8.2%	3,500	4.7%
Health	124,700	6.0%	3,400	4.6%
Social science, education, government service and religion	156,300	7.5%	5,500	7.4%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	47,700	2.3%	**	**
Sales and service	488,000	23.3%	19,800	26.5%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	389,600	18.6%	18,100	24.3%
Unique to primary industry	112,600	5.4%	4,900	6.6%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	69,500	3.3%	2,700	3.6%

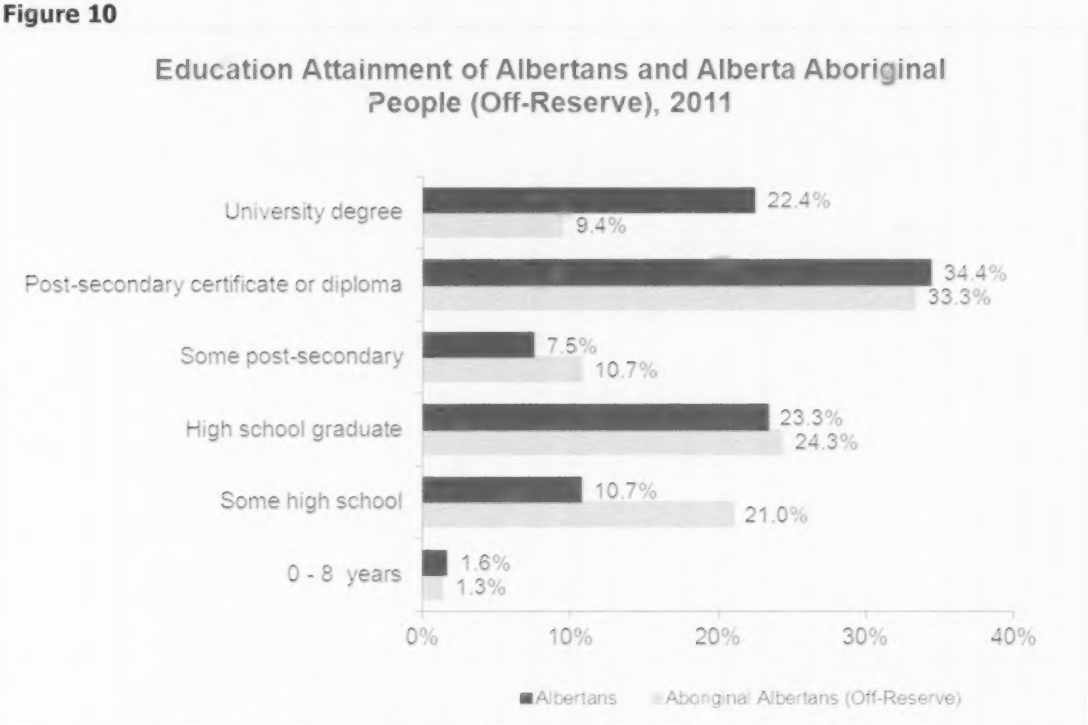
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2011
** Insufficient data

7. Educational Attainment of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

In 2011, 24.3% of Alberta's Aboriginal labour force living off-reserve completed secondary education; 33.3% attained post-secondary certificates or diplomas; and another 9.4% had university degrees. (Figure 10)

The percentage of Alberta's Aboriginal labour force living off-reserve that had less than a high school diploma was 22.3%. The proportion of Alberta's labour force that had less than a high school diploma was 12.3%.

Figure 10



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2011

Additional information about Alberta Aboriginal Labour Force Statistics may be found at:
http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/2660.html

Appendix

All definitions come from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-G.

Aboriginal People: Aboriginal people refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo), and/or who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian, as defined by the *Indian Act of Canada*, and/or who reported being a member of an Indian Band or First Nation.[1]

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of working age population (WAP).

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Unemployment Rate: The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Working Age Population: Includes those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

[1] 2001 Census Dictionary, Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 92-378-XIE